

## **Generic Accountability Measures and Dolphin Allocation Amendment (Generic AM Amendment)**

### *Frequently Asked Questions July 2015*

#### **What does the Generic AM Amendment do?**

- This action would amend the fishery management plans for snapper-grouper and golden crab in South Atlantic, and for dolphin-wahoo in the Atlantic to revise sector allocations for dolphin and update accountability measures for snapper-grouper species and golden crab.

#### **How would the Generic AM Amendment change dolphin allocations?**

- Ten percent of the dolphin acceptable biological catch (1,534,485 pounds whole weight) would be allocated to the commercial sector and 90 percent of the acceptable biological catch (13,810,361 pounds whole weight) would be allocated to the recreational sector.
- The previous allocations were 92.46 percent for the recreational sector, and 7.54 percent for the commercial sector.

#### **Which species and species complexes would have revised accountability measures?**

- The commercial and recreational accountability measures would be revised for black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, greater amberjack, red porgy, gag, golden tilefish, red grouper, snowy grouper, gray triggerfish, hogfish, scamp, Atlantic spadefish, bar jack, snappers complex, jacks complex, shallow-water grouper complex, porgies complex, wreckfish (recreational), and golden crab (commercial).

#### **How would the accountability measures change?**

- The accountability measures would allow NOAA Fisheries to implement in-season closures when each recreational annual catch limit is met or projected to be met.
- The accountability measures would also be modified to trigger post-season paybacks in the commercial and recreational sectors if the species, or one or more species in a species complex, is overfished and the total (commercial and recreational combined) annual catch limit has been exceeded.
- Payback means that the amount of the overage in one year would be deducted from the annual catch limit the next year.

#### **Who would be affected by the Generic AM Amendment?**

- Commercial and recreational fishers who fish for dolphin in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) off Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
- Commercial and recreational fishers who fish for snapper-grouper species (black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, greater amberjack, red porgy, gag, golden tilefish, red grouper, snowy grouper, gray triggerfish, hogfish, scamp, Atlantic spadefish, bar jack, snappers complex, jacks complex, shallow-water grouper complex, porgies complex).
- Recreational fishers who fish for wreckfish in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
- Commercial golden crab fishers in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. There is no recreational component to the golden crab fishery.

**How can I comment on the Notice of Availability for the Generic AM Amendment?**

- NOAA Fisheries is accepting comments on the Notice of Availability for the Generic AM Amendment from July 15, 2015, to September 14, 2015.
- Comments on the Generic AM Amendment Notice of Availability can be submitted electronically via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0181](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0181), click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Written comments can be submitted to the address below.

**Where can I get more information on the Generic AM Amendment and its Notice of Availability?**

- Contact NOAA Fisheries  
*By Mail:* Southeast Regional Office, c/o Mary Janine Vara  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505  
*By FAX:* (727) 824-5308  
*By Phone:* (727) 824-5305
- The Generic AM Amendment may be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site at:  
[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_atl/2014/am\\_dolphin\\_allocation/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/2014/am_dolphin_allocation/index.html)  
or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.